In re Patent Application of: Andrew Robert Clark
Application No.: 10/537,933
Office Action mailed on October 29, 2009

Examiner: Youssef, Adel Y
Confirmation No.: 8660
Art Unit: 2618

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listing, of claims in this application.

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Claims 1-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) A data communications connection method for the Transmission
10   Control Protocol (TCP) comprising the steps of:

      prior to the establishment oftransmission of a handshake packet for a TCP/IP connection, an initiating party computer system sending a connection request message to a receiving party computer system;

      receiving the connection request message at the receiving party computer system;

15   transmitting a handshake packet for a TCP/IP connection from the initiating party computer to the receiving party computer;

      opening, upon receipt of the connection request message and the handshake packet, a TCP connection at the receiving party computer system for the initiating party computer system[[,]] ; and[[,]]

20   communicating between the initiating and receiving party computer systems using TCP communication packets.

32. (Previously Presented) A data communications connection method according to claim 31, wherein the connection request message includes data on the connection requested.

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33. (Previously Presented) A data communications connection method according to claim 31, wherein the connection request message includes information on the initiating party computer system.

30   34. (Previously Presented) A data communications connection method according to claim 31, further comprising:

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evaluating the connection request message at the receiving party computer system prior to

opening the TCP connection.

35. (Previously Presented) A data communications connection method according to claim 34,

5   wherein evaluating the connection request message includes authenticating data within the

connection request message.

36. (Previously Presented) A data communications connection method according to claim 34,

wherein evaluating the connection request message includes authenticating the initiating party

10   computer system.

37. (Previously Presented) A data communications connection method according to claim 34,

further comprising negotiating an encryption key during evaluation.

15   Claim 38 – 43 (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) A communication connection system adapted to communicate under

the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), comprising:

      an initiating device adapted to send a connection request message prior to the

20   transmission of a handshake packet for ~~establishment of~~ a TCP/IP connection <u>and the subsequent</u>

<u>transmission of the handshake packet for a TCP/IP connection</u>; and

      a receiving device adapted to receive the connection request message <u>and subsequent</u>

<u>handshake packet,</u> open a TCP connection at the receiving device for the initiating device[[,]]

<u>upon receipt of the connection request message and the subsequent handshake packet,</u> and

25   communicate with the initiating device using TCP communication packets.

45. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 44, wherein the

connection request message includes information on the initiating device.

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46. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 44, wherein the receiving device is further adapted to evaluate the connection request message prior to opening the TCP connection at the receiving device for the initiating device.

5   47. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 46, wherein evaluating the connection request message includes authenticating data within the connection request message.

48. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 46, wherein evaluating the connection request message includes authenticating the initiating device.

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49. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 46, wherein the receiving device is further adapted to negotiate an encryption key with the initiating device.

50. (Currently Amended) A communication connection system adapted to communicate under

15   ~~the~~ a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), comprising:

an initiating device adapted to send a connection request message prior to the transmission of a handshake packet for ~~establishment of~~ a TCP/IP connection, the connection request message comprising an IP datagram;

a receiving device adapted to receive the connection request message, open a TCP

20   connection at the receiving device for the initiating device upon receipt of the connection request message, and communicate with the initiating device using TCP communication packets.

51. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 50, wherein the connection request message includes information on the initiating device.

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52. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 50, wherein the receiving device is further adapted to evaluate the connection request message prior to opening the TCP connection at the receiving device for the initiating device.

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53. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 52, wherein evaluating the connection request message includes authenticating data within the connection request message.

5   54. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 52, wherein evaluating the connection request message includes authenticating the initiating device.

55. (Previously Presented) The communication connection system of claim 52, wherein the receiving device is further adapted to negotiate an encryption key with the initiating device.

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56. (New) The data communications connection method according to claim 31, wherein the request message is an IP datagram.

57. (New) The communication connection system of claim 44, wherein the request message is an

15   IP datagram.

58. (New) The data communications connection method according to claim 31, wherein the opening step is performed only upon receipt of the connection request message and the subsequent handshake packet.

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59. (New) The data communications connection method according to claim 58, wherein the request message is an IP datagram.

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60. (New) The communication connection system of claim 44, wherein the receiving device is adapted to open the TCP/IP connection only upon receipt of the connection request message and the subsequent handshake packet.

5   61. (New) The communication connection system of claim 50, wherein the receiving device is adapted to open the TCP/IP connection only upon receipt of the connection request message.